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BAGHDAD FOR AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/09/2019 TAGS: PREL PGOV KWBG KISL BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: KING CALLS FOR SUMMIT ON GAZA

REF: MANAMA 13

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- 11. (U) Bahrain's King Hamad called for an Arab-Islamic summit to address the Gaza situation if it was not possible to convene an Arab summit. His statement reiterated support for Egyptian-French efforts. Bahrain's government news agency released the statement the evening of January 8, before news of UNSCR 1860.
- 12. (U) The text is available at http://www.bna.bh/print/142674 and http://english.bna.bh/?ID=75680
- 13. (C) The statement is an attempt to reduce the GOB's exposure to growing public anger, especially among Bahrain's Shia majority (reftel).

 ${\tt HENZEL}$